THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) According to the provisions made in the Indian Medical council Act, 1956, The Indian Medicine 'Central Council Act, 1970 and the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, a person may practice in the system he holds recognized medical qualifications and/or registered with the concerned Council. Some State Governments have permitted Ayurveda and Unani Physicians to practice modern medicine to the extent of their teaching and training. Some state Governments have also posted ISM&H physicians in rural areas where the allopathic doctors are not willing to serve.

Brain Fever Deaths

2764. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many children have died of brain fever in the Vidharbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the spread of he disease and failure of the medical authorities to control the same and prevent deaths; and

(d) the steps taken to control brain fever in and around Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) As per reports received from the State Health Authorities (upto 6th August, 2003), there have been 90 deaths due to viral encephalitis in Vidharbha region of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) Vector borne diseases show seasonal and cyclic pattern. Cognenial conditions for breeding of vectors increase the risk of outbreaks including brain fever. While control of outbreaks is the responsibility of the respective state Governments, Government of India has provided technical support by sending expert team the affected areas. Support has also been provided for laboratory confirmation for diagnosis of the outbreaks. In addition to the insecticides and larvicides already provided under the National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP), arrangements have been made for additional supply of Malathion (Technical) for fogging and larvicides for use in affected areas of Maharashtra.